

Figure 6

## Visual Encounter Searches:

In addition to the data obtained from trapping, we found some notable herps during our visual encounter searches. On July 3, we stopped at Big Horse Basin Gap to survey primarily for *Crotaphytus bicinctores*. We found only one *C. bicinctores*, but in the wash that emerges from the gap, we found an unusually high number of *Sonora semiannulata* skins and living specimens. We also found one *Hypsiglena torquata*. All herps except the *C. bicinctores* were found by turning rocks. We returned to this site on Sept. 9, and found two *C. bicinctores* juveniles and no fresh *S. semiannulata* skins nor live specimens. We found *C. bicinctores* on hot sunny days in rocky areas north of the main bench. We found a *C. bicinctores* population at Big Jacks Creek where the pipeline and the creek meet. We found them consistently for about .5 mi to the east of Big Jacks Creek and for about 1.5 mi to the west. We found a population on the Oreana-Triangle Road just before climbing the bench.

## DISCUSSION

Based on their geographic ranges (Nussbaum et al. 1985 and Stebbins 1986) the following reptiles and amphibians potentially occur in the study area; those marked with an asterisk were found during the course of this study.

### Snakes:

- \*Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*)
- \*Great Basin Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer*)
- \*Western Yellow-bellied Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)
- \*Western Striped Whip snake (*Masticophis taeniatus*)
- \*Western Ground Snake (*Sonora semiannulata*)
- \*Night Snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*)
- \*Western Longnose Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)
- \*Western Terrestrial Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans*)
- Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
- Rubber Boa (*Charina bottae*)

### Lizards:

- \*Longnose Leopard Lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*)
- \*Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*)
- \*Desert Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*)
- \*Short Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglassi*)
- \*Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)
- \*Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)
- \*Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*)
- \*Mojave Black-collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus bicinctores*)
- \*Western Skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*)

### Amphibians:

- \*Pacific Treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*)
- Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*)
- Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)
- Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*)
- Woodhouse's Toad (*Bufo woodhousei*)
- Great Basin Spadefoot Toad (*Spea intermontanus*)

Reptiles and amphibians potentially found in the study area represent 69% of the total species of reptiles and amphibians in Idaho. Additionally, Long-toed Salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) could possibly be found in the study area because the salamander's range borders the study area, and habitat within the study area is similar to the preferred habitat of the salamander. As marked by an asterisk above, we found 17 of 19 potential reptile species during the course of the study.

We found reptiles in all three of the regimes that we surveyed: canyon bottom, mid-slope, and rim. The rim and canyon bottom regimes contained the most reptiles; relatively few were seen in the mid-slope regime, especially during the hottest part of the summer (Fig. 7).

Big Jacks Creek was surveyed using mainly standard drift fence arrays. The drift fence arrays were of two types, steel flashing and silt fence. Silt fence was set up to determine its effectiveness. Insufficient data was obtained to determine to what extent silt fence is effective. Lizards were seen climbing on the silt fence itself. Snakes have been observed using the upright posts to climb over the fence if the posts are placed too close to the fence (M. Gerber pers. obs. ). We angled the uprights to eliminate the latter problem. Movement by reptiles in the trapping area was negligible, with very few being recaptured more than 50m from the original site of capture. We did capture an unusually high number of rattlesnakes in one array on the rim in the spring, but by mid summer we could only find one. This could be the result of a den in the vicinity of the array.

Visual searches did not appear to be effective during this study. We found a limited number of species of reptiles using this method. The areas that were surveyed were very rocky, and although rocks were turned, there were many deep talus runs that enabled snakes to retreat far below the surface, thus limiting the habitat that was practical to survey using this method. Except for one Western Groundsnake population, all reptiles that were seen were active foraging, diurnal species such as Gopher snakes, Racers, Whipsnakes, and Western Terrestrial Garter snakes. We occasionally encountered Western Rattlesnakes, which are usually crepuscular but were found frequently during mid morning hours. Representatives of all nine species of lizards found in this study were found during visual searches. Most of the lizards were found on the canyon rim while lizards on the canyon bottom were second in abundance. Mojave Black-collared lizards and Longnose Leopard lizard were recorded as incidentals.

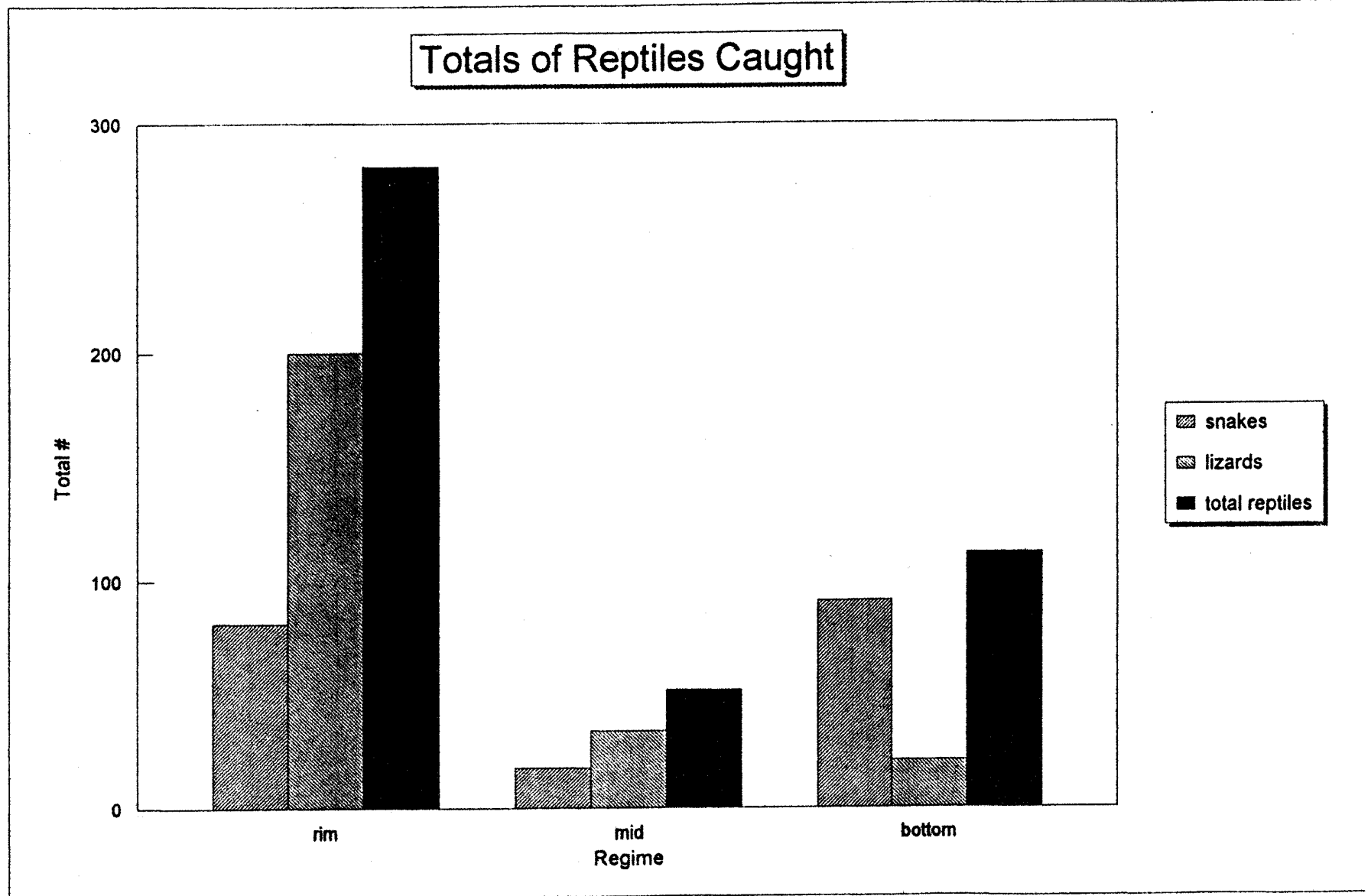


Figure 7

## SUMMARY

Sixteen species of reptiles and amphibians were found in this study, of which 13 were associated with the deep canyons. Canyon rims and canyon bottoms were utilized by reptiles the most. Western Terrestrial Garter Snakes were found strictly on the bottoms, and Western Rattlesnakes were found primarily on the rim. Gopher Snakes, Racers, and Striped Whipsnakes were found to be relatively abundant in all three regimes surveyed. There appeared to be little or no vertical movement of reptiles between regimes. These deep canyons are important areas in the desert for reptiles because they provide apparently suitable cover and forage for most of Idaho's reptiles. Most of the waterways in these deep canyons are perennial and provide apparently good habitat for reptile and amphibian species.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Beck, J.M. and C.R. Peterson. 1995. Movements and habitat selection of the longnose snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*) in southwestern Idaho. Idaho Bureau of Land Management, Technical Bulletin 95-18.
- Diller, L.V. and D.R. Johnson. 1982. Ecology of reptiles in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Report to the Bureau of Land Management.
- Munger, J., L. Heberger, D. Logan, W. Peterson, L. Mealy, and M. Caughlin. 1994. A survey of the herpetofauna of the Bruneau Resource Area, with focus on the Spotted Frog, *Rana pretiosa*. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Technical Bulletin No. 94-7.
- Munger, J.C., M. Gerber, M. Carroll, K. Madrid, T. Bert. 1995. Herpetofauna of Bruneau and Owyhee Resource Areas, Boise District, with focus on the Spotted Frog, *Rana pretiosa*: a second year. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Technical Bulletin No.96-1.
- Nussbaum, R., E. Brodie, Jr., and R. Storm. 1983. Amphibians and reptiles of the Pacific Northwest. University Press of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
- Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Appendix: Capture information for summer of 1995. "Micro" refers to the trap array (see figure). Regimes: bottom = bottom of canyon; m = mid-slope; r = rim of canyon; l = incidentally away from canyon. UTMs and Elevations were taken from USGS 7.5 topographic maps.														
Date	Time	Genus	Species	regime	Mark #	Micro	Temp C	Sun/Cloud	Wind	ER	Legal	UTM N	UTM E	Elevation
Amphibians														
05/18/95	900	Pseudacris	regilla	l	no		10	clear	breezy		T11S R2E SEC 4			
05/19/95	1440	Pseudacris	regilla	b	no		26	clear	breezy		T9S R4E SEC 28	4714310	582310	4180
06/19/95	1557	Pseudacris	regilla	l	no		20	p/c	breezy		T11S R3E SEC9 SE SW SE			
06/19/95	1557	Pseudacris	regilla	l	no		20	p/c	breezy		T11S R3E SEC9 SE SW SE			
05/18/95	1003	Pseudacra	regilla	l	no		17	clear	breezy		T10S R2E SEC 20	4706425	564580	5620
Lizards														
07/03/95	1744	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		21	P/C	windy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715740	583180	4800
07/03/95	1437	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		22	P/C	windy	7	T7S R4E SEC 22 NE SE SE	4738660	586620	2660
07/03/95	1731	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:F	21	P/C	windy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583360	4600
07/03/95	1202	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		21	M/C	breezy	8.5	T8S R3E SEC 14 SE NW SW	4730460	576300	3656
07/03/95	1156	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		21	M/C	breezy	6	T8S R3E SEC 14 SE NW SW	4730480	576300	3656
07/03/95	1030	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		23	P/C	breezy	8	T7S R4E SEC 22 NE SE SE	4738420	585180	2820
07/05/95	2027	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	3.5:A	27	P/C	breezy	8.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715730	583260	4580
07/08/95	929	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		23	P/C	breezy	60	T7S R5E SEC 19 SW NE NW	4741240	590080	2660
07/08/95	1056	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		27	M/C	breezy	6	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715730	583240	4580
07/08/95	1052	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:C	27	M/C	breezy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
07/12/95	1318	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	3:D	15	cloudy	windy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715790	583260	4600
07/12/95	1315	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:E	15	cloudy	windy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
07/23/95	1050	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		21	clear	breezy	9	T2S R2W SEC 27 NE NE SE	4785100	536310	2760
07/29/95	832	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4:B	20	cloudy	windy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715770	583180	4600
07/29/95	838	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4.5:F	21	cloudy	windy	6	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715740	583120	4580
08/29/95	811	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:D	14	clear	windy	8.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
05/25/95	1304	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		22	p/c	breezy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW SW NE	4715680	583080	4500
05/25/95	1337	Cnemidophorus	tigris	m	no		23	p/c	breezy	10	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW SW NE	4715680	582970	4400
05/27/95	1159	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		20	clear	breezy	12	T10S R4E SEC 4 SW NW NE	4715710	583000	4400
05/29/95	1718	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		25	clear	breezy	8	4E 7S S28 SW NE	4737080	588480	2750
05/30/95	1157	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		27	clear	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715680	582080	4400
06/12/95	1300	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		30	clear	none	8	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/12/95	1305	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		30	clear	none	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/12/95	1155	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		25	clear	breezy	9	T11S R5E SEC 18 NW NE NE	4741240	590080	2660
06/12/95	1257	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		30	clear	none	8	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/26/95	1242	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:C	32	clear	breezy	11	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
06/26/95	928	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		22	clear	none	7	T7S R5E SEC 7 SE NE SE	4739160	588140	2700
06/26/95	1222	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	1:E	32	clear	breezy	9.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 SE NE NE	4715740	583460	4610
06/26/95	1242	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4:E	32	clear	breezy	10	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715770	583180	4600
06/26/95	1222	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	1:E	32	clear	breezy	9.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 SE NE NE	4715740	583460	4610
06/26/95	1221	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	1:D	32	clear	breezy	10	T10S R4E SEC 4 SE NE NE	4715740	583460	4610
06/26/95	1312	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4.5:G	29	clear	breezy	4.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715740	583120	4580
06/29/95	1157	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	5:D	22	clear	breezy	4.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715770	583070	4600
06/29/95	938	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		17	clear	breezy	9	T8S R5E SEC6 NW NE NW	4733720	587020	3020
06/29/95	1221	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		25	clear	breezy	9	T7S R4E SEC 29 SW SW SE	4733680	581910	2780
06/29/95	1221	Cnemidophorus	tigris	l	no		25	clear	breezy	9	T7S R4E SEC 32 NE NW NW	4733780	581910	2780
07/01/95	1845	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:C	25	P/C	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
07/01/95	1829	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	1:G	26	P/C	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 SE NE NE	4715740	583480	4610
07/15/95	1330	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no		33	clear	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715790	583220	4600
07/15/95	1305	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4.5:F	33	clear	calm	9.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715740	583120	4580
07/18/95	1140	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	4.5:E	31	clear	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NE NW NE	4715740	583120	4580
07/18/95	1150	Cnemidophorus	tigris	r	no	2:C	31	clear	breezy	9.5	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715760	583350	4600
06/12/95	1448	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1520	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW NW NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1520	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	11	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW NW NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1520	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW NW NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1257	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	none	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/12/95	1257	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	none	8	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/12/95	1300	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	none	11	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SE SE	4733220	581910	2780
06/12/95	1511	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 SE SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1511	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 SE SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1511	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 SE SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1514	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 SE SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1511	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 SE SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1520	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW NW NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/12/95	1448	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		30	clear	breezy	9	T8S R4E SEC 5 NW SE NW	4734250	581330	2960
06/29/95	1210	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		25	clear	breezy	12	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SW NW	4733340	581930	2780
06/29/95	1213	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		25	clear	breezy	10	T8S R4E SEC 5 SW SW NW	473350	581940	2780
06/29/95	1147	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		24	clear	breezy	12	T8S R4E SEC 8 NW NW NE	4733220	581910	2780
06/29/95	1147	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		24	clear	breezy	12	T8S R4E SEC 8 NW NW NE	4733220	581910	2780
06/29/95	1215	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		25	clear	breezy	11	T7S R4E SEC31 SE NE NE	4733680	581910	2780
07/03/95	1149	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		21	M/C	breezy	10	T8S R3E SEC 14 SE NW SW	4730460	576300	3656
07/22/95	1435	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		27	P/C	breezy	12	T5S R1W SEC 1 NE NE NE			
09/09/95	1330	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		23	clear	breezy	12	T8S R3E SEC 14 SE NW SW	4730460	576300	3656
09/09/95	1330	Crotaphytus	bicinctores	l	no		27	clear	breezy	11	T8S R3E SEC 14 SE NW SW	4730460	576300	3656
05/20/95	1930	Eumeces	skiltonianus	r	no		28	P/C	breezy	8	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715740	583350	4600
05/30/95	816	Eumeces	skiltonianus	r	no	4:E	20	clear	calm	4	T10S R4E SEC 4 NW NE NE	4715770	583180	4600
06/01/95	2041	Eumeces	skiltonianus	b	no	13:A	19	cloudy	breezy	6	T9S R4E SEC 33 SE SE SW	4716090	582710	4160
06/11/95	1053	Eumeces	skiltonianus	b	no	13:D	23	clear	none	8	T9S R4E SEC 33 SE SE SW	4716090	582710	4160
06/28/95	1620	Eumeces	skiltonianus	m	no	9:G	32	clear	breezy	7	T10S R4E SEC 4 SW NW NE	4715520	582970	4420
07/01/95	1908	Eum												